GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1756
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2000
UN REPORT ON CHILD ABUSE
MOHAN PONNUSWAMY

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the UN report reveals nearly two million children are being abused globally every year and the largest number of them is from South and South East Asia;

(b) if so, the break up of number of child abuse noticed in India during 1997-98 and 1999 State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent child abuse in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVLOPMENT

(SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN)

(a) The latest Report titled `The State of World's Children 2000` released by UNICEF at New Delhi on 13th December, 1999 mentions that there is no way to calculate the exact number of children whose lives are endangered by their sale and trafficking, by debt bondage, serfdom, forced or compulsory labour, forced or compulsory recruitment into armed conflict, prostitution, pornography or by the production and trafficking of drugs. However, the report titled `The Progress of Nations for the year, 1997`, published by UNICEF, states that more than one million children are forced into prostitution every year, the majority in Asia.

(b) The number of children in India against whom crimes like rape, sale, exposure and abandonment etc. have been committed during the years 1997, 1998 and 1999 is 5980, 5788 and 1143 (excluding child rape) as per records maintained by National Crime Records Bureau. The State-wise details is given in Annexure-I.

(c) A statement giving the requisite information is given at Annexure II. Annexure-I

Annexure-I referred to in reply to part(b) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.1756 by Shri P. Mohan regarding UN Report on Child Abuse on 7.3.2000

S.No.	States/U.Ts.	Number of Incidence during the years 1997	1998	1999
1.	Andhra Pradesh	365	340	47
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	29	10	1
3.	Assam	195	223	19
4.	Bihar	368	368	0
5.	Goa	16	14	5
6.	Gujarat	389	389	164
7	Haryana	184	227	95
8.	Himachal Pradesh	70	51	14
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	6	24	8
10.	Karnataka	124	141	70
11.	Kerala	184	191	13
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1243	1034	160

13.	Maharashtra	916	888	213
14.	Manipur	5	7	0
15.	Meghalaya	4	11	0
16.	Mizoram	11	49	1
17.	Nagaland	3	4	0
18.	Orissa	155	153	8
19.	Punjab	89	109	25
20.	Rajasthan	201	208	38
21.	Sikkim	6	2	0
22.	Tamil Nadu	116	113	8
23.	Tripura	23	16	0
24.	Uttar Pradesh	528	536	19
25.	West Bengal	390	303	68
26.	A & N Islands	7	5	0
27.	Chandigarh	10	8	10
28.	D & N Haveli	1	2	0
29.	Damn & Diu	0	0	1
30.	Delhi	338	358	155
31.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
32.	Pondicherry	4	4	1
	Total	5980	5788	1143

Annexure - II

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART(C) OF LOKSABHA UNSTARREDQUESTION NO. 1756 BY SHRI P. MOHA REGARDING UN REPORT ON CHILD ABUSE DUE FOR REPLY ON 7.3.2000.

The Government has taken a number of measures both administrative and legal to prevent children from being abused. Some of which are as follows :
(I) LEGAL :
The following are important specific legislations to protect the children from the clutches of violence and abuse meted out to them : -

(i) Juvenile Justice Act, 1986
The Juvenile Justice Act, 1986 has provisions for protection from cruelty and has elaborate provisions for the care, protection and rehabilitation of neglected and abused children. The Immoral Prevention Act, 1956 (as amended) deals with the punitive as also preventive aspects of prostitution including child prostitution.

(ii) Probation of Offenders Act, 1958

(iii) The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986

(iv) The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1996

(v) The Factories Act (Amended) 1954

(vi) The Child Marriage Restraint Act (Amended) 1979

(vii) The Orphanages and Other Charitable Homes

(Surpervions & Countrol) Act, 1960

(viii) Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956

(ix) The Infant Milk Substitute, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of ProductionSupply & Offenders) Act, 1992
(x) The Pre-Natal Diagnostic Technique (Regulation, Prevention and Misuse) Act, 1994
(ix) Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act, 1956

(2) Indian Penal Code considers the following as serious offences :-

(i) Kidnapping or maiming a child for begging (Section 363 - A - IPC)

(ii) Selling or buying of girls for purposes of prostitution

(Section 372 and 373 IPC)

(iii) Exposure and Abandonment of children under 12 years by parents or guardians (Section 317 IPC)

(iv) Sexual harassment (Section 509), child prostitution and child rape are also covered.

(II) POLICIES AND PROVISIONS :-

(i) The National Policy for Children's 1974 states that `children shall be protected against neglect, cruelty and exploitation`.

(ii) The National Decadal Plan of Action for the Girl Child 1991-2000recognises the rights of the girl child to protection from exploitation, assault and physical abuse.

(iii)The National Policy on Education recommends firm exclusion of corporal punishment to children in schools.

(III)ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES :

(i) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has also beenimplementing a scheme for welfare of street children, which has been reviewed and revised and renamed as An Integrated Programme for Street Children. The basic aim of the programme is to protect a children from all types of abuse, including rape and induction into prostitution etc. which they are exposed to when on the street unprotected.

(ii) One of the important initiatives taken under the revised scheme was the establishment of Child Helpline Service in a number of cities. The Child Helpline isa 24 hour free phone service which can be accessed by children in distress by dialing the number 1098 on the telephone. The service is currently available at Mumbai, Delhi, Calcutta, Chennai, Hyderabad, Nagpur, Bangalore and Patna.

(iii)Government of India has constituted a CentralAdvisory Committee t o suggest measures t o b e taken for eradicating child prostitution. The Plan of Action prepared by this Committee has been finalised and the Implementation Machinery is being set up.

(iv) In order to protect children from illicit use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and to prevent the use of children in the illicit production and trafficking of such substances, a scheme of assistance to voluntary organisations for prohibition and drug abuse prevention is also being implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.